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REMARKS

A typographical error occurred in the preparation of Claim 22 in the Preliminary Amendment filed in the above-identified patent application. This Second Preliminary Amendment corrects the error. Entry of the amendment to Claim 22 is requested.

Early and favorable action in this case is requested.

Applicants also enclose a marked-up version of the changes made to the claim by the current amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 1, 2002   By: _____
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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Words to be added are indicated by <u>underscore</u>, while words to be deleted are indicated by ~~overstrike~~.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend Claim 22 as follows:

22. (Amended) <u>An image coding apparatus comprising:</u>

a bit plane generator (303) dividing unitary image data into a plurality of bit planes determined depending upon the number of bits forming each pixel,

an image preprocessor (305) connected to said bit plane generator (303) to arrange bit data of the same position forming said plurality of bit planes in close proximity to combine said plurality of bit planes into a single bit plane, and

a data compressor (306) connected to said image preprocessor (305) to compress an image of said single bit plane.